(b) whether there is any proposal presently being implemented for modernisation and expansion of Visakhapatnam Port; and

(c) if so, the details of such schemes, time-frame involved and financial outlays for Visakhapatnam Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Reply is given in the attached Statement. [*See* Appendix CLIX, Annexure No. 21]

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Reply is given in the attached statement [*See* Appendix 159, Annexure No. 22]

Privatization of Shipping Industry

623. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise shipping industry by allowing big exporters to construct jetties and install equipment at ports;

(b) if so, to what extent privatisation of shipping industry would solve problems at ports; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government welcomes the participation of Private Sector in ports.

(b) This depends upon the nature of the proposals received from the Private Sector.

(c) Till date, no firm proposal has been received.

मध्य प्रदेश, आंध्र प्रदेश तथा महाराष्ट्र में नक्सलवादी

624. श्री अजीत जोगी :
श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश के बस्तर क्षेत्र में और उससे लगे हुए महाराष्ट्र के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में नक्सलवादी गतिविधियां इस हद तक बढ़ चुकी हैं कि अब वहां एक समानान्तर सरकार कार्य करने लगी है;

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वारा इस दिशा में कोई पहल की गई है; और

(ग) क्या नए सामाजिक तथा आर्थिक कार्यक्रमों को लागू करके इस समस्या के मूल कारणों को समाप्त किया जाएगा ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम०एम० जैकब) : (क) से (ग) हाल ही के महीनों में मध्य प्रदेश के बस्तर क्षेत्र में नक्सलवादियों की गतिविधियों में वृद्धि हुई है । लोक व्यवस्था और पुलिस राज्य का विषय होने के कारण उनकी जिम्मेदारी मुख्य रूप से राज्य सरकार की है । सरकार की यह नीति है कि देश में आतंकवादी तत्वों के साथ कड़ाई से निपटने के साथ-साथ प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास किया जाए ताकि स्थानीय लोगों की वास्तविक समस्याओं को दूर किया जा सके और उनको आतंकवादियों के प्रभाव से मुक्त रखा जा सके । तदनुसार केन्द्र सरकार राज्य सरकारों से राज्य के सभी क्षेत्रों का समान विकास करने के लिए ठोस समन्वित कार्य योजनाएं तैयार करने का आग्रह करती आ रही

है जिससे कि तीव्र भूमि सुधार, अतिरिक्त भूमि का आवंटन, अविकसित आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के सुधार के लिए चलाई गई विभिन्न परियोजनाओं, इत्यादि के कारण विस्थापित हुए आदिवासी लोगों का पुनर्वास किया जाना सुनिश्चित हो सके। इस बारे में प्रभावित राज्यों को केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा सभी संभव सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है।

Statutory Development Boards for Marathwada and Vidharbha

625. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Statutory Development Boards for Marathwada and Vidharbha under Art. 371(2) of the Constitution;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra have sent proposals at different points of time for setting up of Development Boards in terms of article 371(2) of the Constitution. They require in-depth examination from different angles, including legal and constitutional, before a final decision is taken.

Traffic in Connaught Place, New Delhi

626. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the confusion and hardship created by Delhi Traffic Police in Connaught Place in Delhi;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the changes were made without consultation with the NDMC and MCD chiefs or with Surface Transport Ministry;

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up a joint standing task force, including Citizen Groups for traffic control in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) A new traffic circulation pattern evolved by Central Road Research Institute has been adopted in Connaught Place by Delhi Traffic Police on experimental basis in collaboration with NDMC, within whose jurisdiction the area falls.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Radical improvements in the Postal Services

627. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce radical improvements in the postal services so as to mechanise and automate its operations and to ensure faster delivery of mail, money order and parcels; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) An automatic integrated mail processing system for faster sorting process and an electronic money transfer system for transmission of money orders are under examination. 102 computerised counter machines have been installed in selected post offices.

Restructuring of telecom sector in the country

628. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take steps for restructuring of telecom sector in the country; and